

# NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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## Office of the State Climatologist

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### STATE PUBLICATIONS

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### SYNOPSIS

Except for scattered locations in the Northeast and the extreme Northwest, May was a drier than normal month over Nevada. In fact, several locations had no precipitation this month. Temperatures were also warmer than normal during May with departures of 3 to 4 degrees from average in most areas.

Despite the dryness the past two months, Water Year precipitation (Oct. 1, 1992 - May 31, 1993) is still above normal over most of Nevada. It ranges from 2 1/2 times normal in the South, 1 3/4 times in the extreme Northwest and 1 1/4 times normal in much of the Northeast and East Slope Sierra Nevada to less than 3/4 of normal in a large area in the Central portion of the State. Not much change can be expected during the last four months of the Water Year (June - Sept.), as this is normally the driest part of the year.

### TEMPERATURE

May temperatures averaged warmer than usual Statewide, with departures ranging from 2 to 6 degrees above long-term normals. Several locations reached above 100, with 107 at Laughlin on the 11th the warmest. Lake Mead communities Boulder Beach and Echo Bay had 104 degrees, while Cottonwood Cove also had 104 degrees. Charleston fell to 16 degrees on the 16th, with 17's at Reese River and Spring Valley State Park. State records of 116 at Cottonwood Cove in 1983 and -7 at Pine Valley in 1990 were not approached.

### PRECIPITATION

Most of the State had less than normal rain/snow. A notable exception was the extreme Northwest where Aury Smith had 3.68" at Vya, with 1.30" on the 4th and .90" on the 3rd. In the extreme Northeast Jarbidge had 3.19" and Jarbidge 4N 2.89". In North Central Nevada Bob Reinmund reported a little over 2" at both the Sleeper Mine and Tailing Pond measurement sites.

Several locations had no precipitation this month, including North Las Vegas Fire Department, Topaz Lake, Mina, Beatty, Duckwater, Lida, Twin Springs, and Nine Mile Ranch.

## SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal during May with, for example, 88 percent of the possible hours at Las Vegas, which is normal, and 80 percent at Reno and a normal of 82 percent. Winnemucca had 73 percent and a normal of 70 percent.

Wind speeds were near normal in the Northeast, but it was another windy month in the remainder of the State. At Las Vegas there were 17 days with wind gusts over 30 mph, with 13 such days at Reno. The peak gust was 52 mph at Las Vegas on the 3rd. Reno had 48 mph, also on the 3rd. Across the State, Lorraine Clifton reported 70 mph gusts at FMC Gold Mine at Gabbs on the 11th, with 70 mph plus gusts in Reno's suburbs on the 4th. Smokey Valley had 66 mph, and 65 mph was recorded at the French Ranch at Hay Creek near Reno.

Evaporation was below normal during May in the South with 10.39" at Boulder City and an average of 12.75". Pan evaporation was above normal in the rest of the state with 8.93" at Fallon and a normal of 8.00", and Ruby Lake had 7.49" and a normal of 7.00". Some other evaporation amounts were UNR, 9.80", Honey Lake Fleming 7.05", Shoshone 7.87", Overton 14.12", the Gund Ranch north of Eureka 8.08", and Pahrump 12.70".

## HISTORICAL NOTES FROM THE STATE CLIMATE OFFICE ARCHIVES

July 1891 - "Due to a wet winter and spring, in alfalfa producing regions the yield will be fair and quality excellent, but the cost of putting hay in the stack will be increased because laborers demand \$1.25 per day and board!"

July 1891 - "In Genoa, Mr. Dungan, the weather observer, reported a remarkable storm, with a 20 foot wall of water from Genoa Canyon, carrying logs and boulders in wild confusion. An undertaking shop was carried 200 yards and deposited in a field. The damage to residences, streets and public works amounts to many thousands of dollars."

Spring 1943 - "Due to killing frosts in April, May and June, and damage to the fruit and vegetable crops, there was considerable replanting. Many lambs and shorn sheep were lost as a result of the below normal temperatures and heavy frosts."

NOTE: Many thanks to UNR student interns Keirsten Sorensen, Don Patterson and Jerry McMillan for their assistance during the 1992-93 academic year. With such severe cuts to the budget of this office it would have been impossible to operate without them. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

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# NEVADA

## CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL  
PRECIPITATION

MAY 1993

